

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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DEPT PLEASE PASS DEPT AGRICULTURE

COPENHAGEN FOR AGRATT

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR,EEWT,NO

SUBJECT: REPORTED SOVIET INTEREST IN NORWEGIAN GRAIN SHORTAGE
FACILITIES

1. IN EARLY OCTOBER THE STATE-CONTROLLED NORWEGIAN GRAIN CORPORATION(NGC) RECEIVED AN INQUIRY THROUGH A SHIPPING FIRM ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF STORING SOVIET GRAINS IN ITS ELEVATORS IN STAVANGER ON THE WEST COAST OF NORWAY. THE SOVIETS HOPE TO TRANSSHIP GRAIN FROM LARGER OCEAN-GOING VESSELS TO SMALLER COASTAL SHIPS. THE NGC REPLIED NEGATIVELY TO REQUEST FOR LONG-TERM STORAGE BECAUSE OF LACK OF AVAILABLE CAPACITY.

2. HOWEVER, OLAV HOGNE,MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NGC REQUESTED VIEW OF THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. PER VIGMOSTAD,SECTION CHIEF RESPONSIBLE FOR EAST EUROPEAN TRADE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, TOLD EMBASSY A DECISION WOULD PROBABLY BE REACHED BY THE END OF JANUARY AFTER CONSULTING EFFECTED DEPARTMENTS(I.E.,
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MINISTRY OF DEFENSE). VIGMOSTAD BELIEVED FOREIGN

MINISTRY WOULD ONLY ALLOW SHORT-TERM AD HOC STORAGE
IF SILOS BECOME AVAILABLE. NGC OFFICER KROGAN SAID HE HAS REASON
TO BELIEVE THAT SOVIETS WILL SHORTLY COME BACK WITH
A RENEWED REQUEST.

3. ACCORDING TO THE NORWEGIAN JOURNAL OF COMMERCE AND
SHIPPING, IF NGC DOES NOT HAVE AVAILABLE SILO
CAPACITY, NORWEGIAN SHIPOWNERS COULD USE IDLE SHIPS FOR
STORAGE OF GRAIN (OVER 1.8 MILLION D.W.T. COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE
ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE). THE LAID-UP
NORWEGIAN SHIP "JARAMA", IS ALREADY BEING USED TO STORE
44,000 TONS OF CANADIAN WHEAT.

4. COMMENT: THERE MAY BE LIMITED STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE
IN STAVANGER ON A SHORT-TERM BASIS IN THE SPRING
AND THERE CERTAINLY IS AMPLE STORAGE CAPACITY IN IDLED
NORWEGIAN SHIPS. HOWEVER, BOTH THE NGC AND THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY ARE NOT PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE A LARGE
NUMBER OF SOVIET SHIPS WAITING TO BE LOADED IN THE PORT
OF STAVANGER.
BYRNE

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